

# COLORADO CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2007

at the Wynkoop Brewing Company

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver  
About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.

## Computational Thinking

*Should we all be doing it? What is it, anyway?*

Clayton Lewis, PhD, Professor of Computer  
Science, University of Colorado at Boulder

**Computational thinking** is a concept about which many people in Computer Science, including their funders at the National Science Foundation, are excited. The idea is that there are certain ways of thinking about problems that have evolved in computer science but that EVERYONE should have a sense of. The premise, as stated by NSF Directorate Head Jeannette Wing: “Computational thinking is a fundamental skill for everyone, not just for computer scientists. To reading, writing, and arithmetic, we should add computational thinking to every child’s analytical ability. Computational thinking involves solving problems, designing systems, and understanding human behavior, by drawing on the concepts fundamental to computer science....Computational thinking is a way humans solve problems; it is not trying to get humans to think like computers. Computers are dull and boring; humans are clever and imaginative. *We humans make computers exciting.*”

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME.** The discussion starts at 6:30 in the Mercantile Room (no food service there). Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat in the restaurant area, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.

There’s no charge. The Wynkoop is generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks. It is first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** so that everyone can take part in the discussion.

The Colorado Café Scientifique is organized by an informal group of President’s Teaching Scholars and faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as science fans from industry, government and elsewhere. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to [John.Cohen@UCHSC.edu](mailto:John.Cohen@UCHSC.edu)

Essential information on our Web site at <http://CafeSciColorado.org>